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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,752	11/25/2003	Emiel Jozef Melanie Eussen	081468-0306993	2765

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EXAMINER

TURNER, SAMUEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,752

Applicant(s)

EUSSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Samuel A. Turner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 April 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4, 9, and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and claims 5-8, and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) contained in the action dated 12 January 2006 is repeated and incorporated herein.

With regard to claims 1 and 10, the amendment recites the further limitations of:

at least one measuring mirror fixedly connected to said object and comprising a plurality of measuring mirror areas; and

at least one reference mirror comprising one or more reference mirror areas that prevent said respective measuring beams and said respective reference beams from passing through said reference mirror.

The interferometer of Sommargren(4,859,066) teaches a measuring mirror(90) with a plurality of measuring mirror areas(POS. 1, POS. 2) and a reference mirror(89) with one or more reference mirror areas that prevent said respective measuring beams and said respective reference beams from passing through said reference mirror(these are the reflective areas of the reference mirror which would reflect any beams incident thereon).

With regard to claims 3 and 11, the amendment recites the further limitation of:

at least one reference mirror comprising one or more reference mirror areas that are configured to prevent radiation beams from passing through said reference mirror.

The interferometer of Sommargren(4,859,066) teaches a reference mirror(89) with one or more reference mirror areas that prevent said respective measuring beams and said respective reference beams from passing through said reference mirror(these are the reflective areas of the reference mirror which would reflect any beams incident thereon).

With regard to claim 18, the amendment further recites the structural limitation to:

at least one reference mirror comprising one or more reference mirror areas that are configured to prevent beams from passing through said reference mirror.

Claim 18 is a method claim having the steps of:

providing a substrate;

providing a beam of radiation using an illumination system;

using patterning device to impart beam of radiation with a pattern in its cross-section; and

projecting said patterned beam of radiation onto a target portion of the substrate,

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wherein a position of at least one of said patterning device and said substrate is determined by an interferometer system.

The remaining limitations of claim 18, as well as claims 19-24, are structural limitations having no definite method steps directed to a manufacturing method and it has been held that to be entitled to weight in method claims, the recited structural limitations therein must affect the method in a manipulative sense, and not to amount to the mere claiming of a use of a particular structure. Ex parte Pfeiffer, 1962 C.D. 408 (1961). Therefor the additional structural limitation to the reference mirror does not change the method claim scope.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel A. Turner whose phone number is 571-272-2432.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr., can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Samuel A. Turner
Primary Examiner
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